

**Chief Justice David Gilbertson**

**David Gilbertson****Chief Justice of the  
Supreme Court**

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[David.Gilbertson@ujs.state.sd.us](mailto:David.Gilbertson@ujs.state.sd.us) (e-mail)

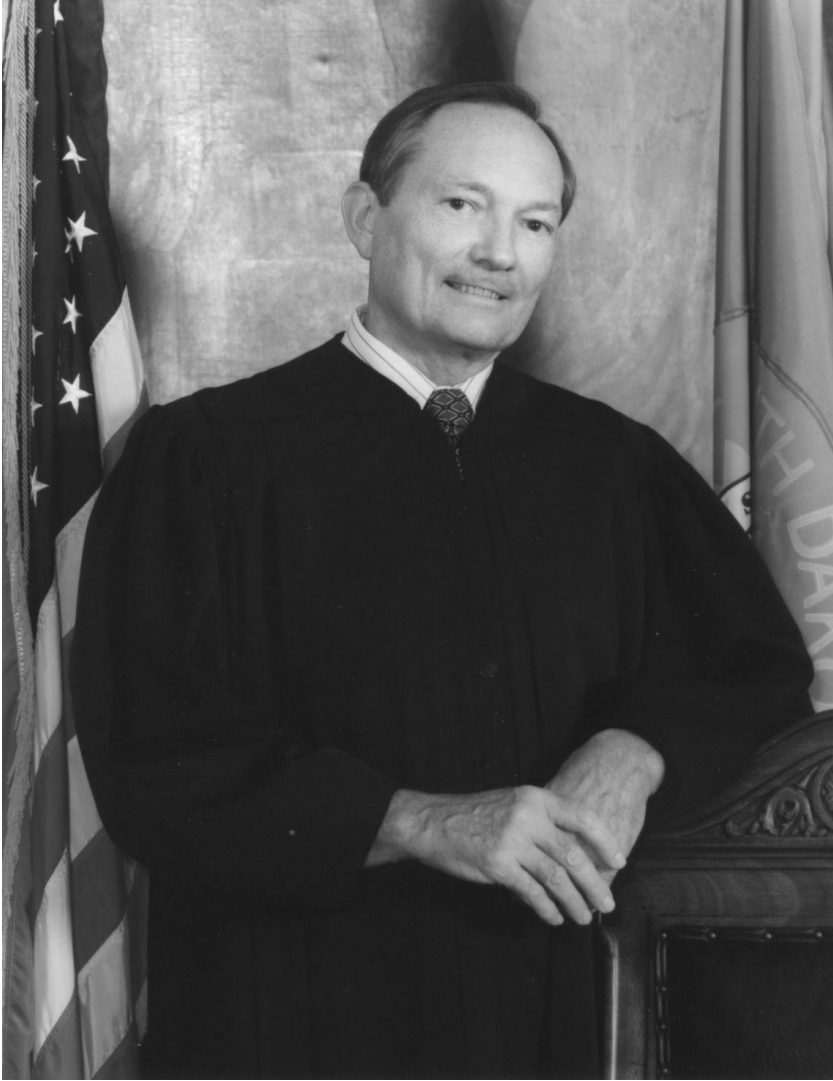
Born: October 29, 1949, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Married: Deborah Leigh Jensen

Children: Kristin, Erik, Rachael and John

Lutheran. Bachelor of Science, South Dakota State University, 1972; Juris Doctorate, University of South Dakota, 1975; Private Practice, Sisseton, 1975-1986; Roberts County Deputy State's Attorney, 1975-1986; City Attorney, Sisseton, 1975-1986; Secretary-Treasurer, Sisseton Volunteer Fire Department, 1977-1998; VFW Outstanding Volunteer Fireman for South Dakota, 1994; Boys State Courts Counselor, 1995-present; President, Conference of Chief Justices, South Dakota Judges Association, 1993-1994; Tribal-State Judges Forum, 1992; South Dakota Bar Association; Civil Pattern Jury Instruction Committee, 1986-1999; Judicial Bar Liaison Committee; Glacial Lakes Bar Association, Sixth Circuit Bar Association; Fifth Circuit Judge, 1986-1995; Appointed Supreme Court Justice April 3, 1995, retained November 1998; Elected Chief Justice, September 15, 2001.

**Fifth Supreme Court District:** Grant, Roberts, Day, Marshall, Clark, Brown, McPherson, Edmunds, Faulk, Potter, Walworth, Campbell, Corson, Dewey, Ziebach, Perkins, Butte, Codington, Spink, and Harding counties.



**Justice Richard W. Sabers**

**Richard W. Sabers****Justice of the  
Supreme Court**

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[Richard.Sabers@uds.state.sd.us](mailto:Richard.Sabers@uds.state.sd.us) (e-mail)

Born: February 12, 1938, Salem, South Dakota

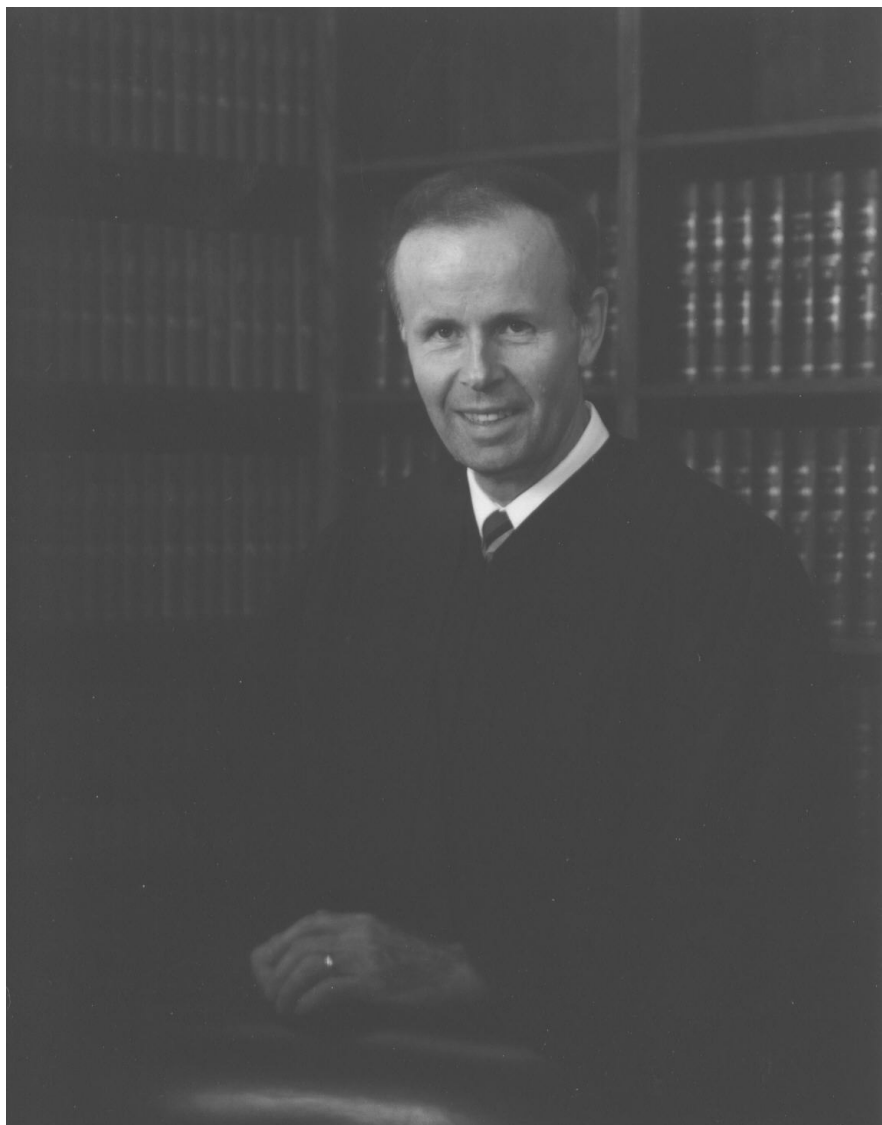
Spouse: Ellie Schmitz

Children: Steven, Susan, and Michael with deceased Wife Colleen.

Step Children: Jason, Joseph, and Ann.

Catholic. Salem St. Mary's High School, 1956; St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, Bachelor of Arts, 1960; University of South Dakota, Juris Doctorate, 1966; United States Army Corps of Engineers, First and Second Lieutenant; North Dakota State Representative for March of Dimes; Associate and Partner, Moore, Rasmussen, Sabers and Kading, 1966-1986; First Lieutenant and Captain, U.S. Army Reserve, 1963-1969; Editorial Board Member, South Dakota Law Review, 1965-1966; Jaycee Award for Outstanding Young Religious Leader (Layman), 1971; Appellate Judges Seminars, 1986 and 1992, New York University Law School; President, Second Judicial Circuit Bar Association, 1982-1983; South Dakota State Bar Association; American Bar Association; Supreme Court Justice, 1986-present.

**Second Supreme Court District:** Minnehaha, and Northwest Portion of Lincoln county.



**Justice John K. Konenkamp**

**John K. Konenkamp****Justice of the  
Supreme Court**

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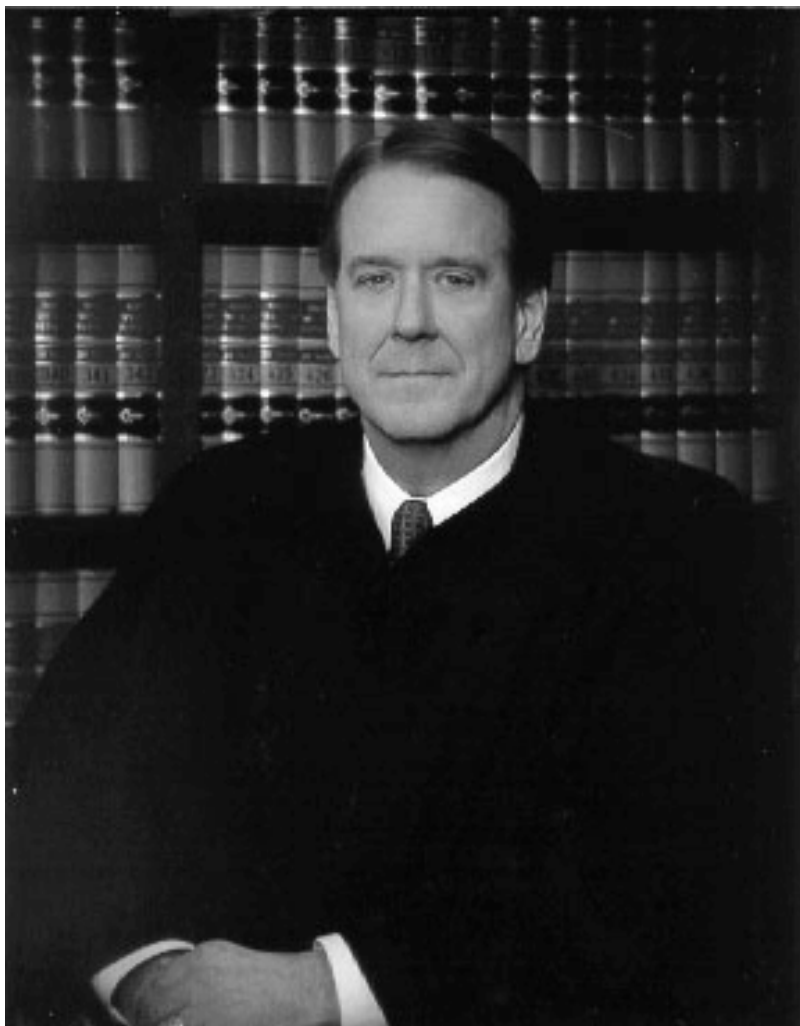
Spouse: Geri

Born: October 20, 1944, Pierre, SD

Children: Kathryn Lefler and Matthew

Lutheran. After serving in the United States Navy, Justice Konenkamp attended the University of South Dakota, School of Law, graduating in 1974. He practiced in Rapid City as a Deputy State's Attorney until 1977. He then engaged in private practice until 1984 when he was appointed a Circuit Judge. In May of 1988, he became Presiding Judge of the Seventh Circuit. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1994 after ten years on the trial bench. He is a member of the State Bar of South Dakota, American Legion, and Pennington County Bar Association. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Judicature Society, a national organization devoted to addressing the problems and concerns of the system of justice. John and his wife, Geri, are former foster parents for the Department of Social Services. John served on a number of boards advancing the improvement of the legal system and the protection of children, including the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and Advisory Board for the Casey Family Program, a nationwide foster care provider.

**First Supreme Court District** which includes Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade and Pennington Counties.



**Justice Steven L. Zinter**

**Steven L. Zinter****Justice of the  
Supreme Court**

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State Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501  
605-773-4885, phone  
605-772-6128, fax

Born: September 18, 1950, Minneapolis, MN

Married: Sandra A. Aaen

Children: Sarah A. and Kelly N.

Lutheran. Bachelor of Science, University of South Dakota, 1972; Juris Doctorate, University of South Dakota, 1975, Attorney at Law; Assistant Attorney General, 1975-1978; Private Practice, Schmidt, Schroyer, Colwill, Zinter and Barnett, P.C., 1979-1986; Hughes County State's Attorney, 1980-1986; Sixth Circuit Court Judge, 1987-1997; Presiding Judge, July 1997-2002; Supreme Court Justice, 2002-present.

**Third Supreme Court District:** Brookings, Deuel, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Moody, Miner, Sanborn, Beadle, Jerauld, Hand, Hyde, Hughes, Sully, Stanley, Buffalo, Jones, Jackson, Mellette, Todd, Bennett, Shannon and Haakon counties.





**Justice Judith K. Meierhenry**

**Judith K. Meierhenry****Justice of the  
Supreme Court**

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[Judith.Meierhenry@ujs.state.sd.us](mailto:Judith.Meierhenry@ujs.state.sd.us) (E-mail address)

Born: January 20, 1944, Burke, SD

Married: Mark Meierhenry

Children: Todd and Mary

Lutheran. B.S., University of South Dakota, 1966; M.A., 1968; J.D., 1977; Teacher, 1966-1974; Private Law Practice, Vermillion, 1977-1978; S.D. State Economic Opportunity Office, 1979; S.D. Secretary of Labor, 1980-1984; S.D. Secretary of Education and Cultural Affairs, 1983-1984; Senior Manager and Assistant General Counsel, Citibank South Dakota, Sioux Falls, 1985-1988; Second Circuit Court Judge, 1988-present; Presiding Judge, June 1997-2002; Supreme Court Justice, 2002-present.

**Fourth Supreme Court District:** Union, Clay, Yankton, Hutchinson, Hanson, Davison, Bon Homme, Douglas, Aurora, Brule, Charles Mix, Gregory, Tripp, Lyman, McCook and Turner Counties and all but the Northwest portion of Lincoln County.

# Former Justices of the Supreme Court<sup>a</sup> Dakota Territory

|                           |           |                            |                        |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| George P. Williston ..... | 1861-1864 | William E. Church .....    | 1883-1886              |
| Philemon Bliss.....       | 1861-1865 | Cornelius S. Palmer.....   | 1883-1888              |
| Ara Barlett .....         | 1864-1869 | William H. Francis .....   | 1884-1888              |
| Joseph L. Williams .....  | 1861-1865 | Seward Smith .....         | 1884-1885 <sup>b</sup> |
| William E. Gleason .....  | 1865-1867 | A.J. Edgerton.....         | 1882-1886              |
| John W. Boyle .....       | 1867-1869 | Louis K. Church.....       | 1885-1887              |
| Wilmot W. Brookings ..... | 1869-1873 | William B. McConnell ..... | 1885-1889              |
| George W. French .....    | 1869-1873 | Bartlett Tripp.....        | 1886-1889              |
| Jefferson P. Kidder ..... | 1865-1875 | Charles M. Thomas .....    | 1887-1889              |
| Alanson H. Barnes.....    | 1873-1881 | James Spencer .....        | 1887-1889              |
| Granville G. Bennett..... | 1875-1878 | John E. Carland .....      | 1888-1889              |
| Peter C. Shannon .....    | 1873-1882 | Roderick Rose .....        | 1888-1889              |
| Jefferson P. Kidder ..... | 1879-1883 | C.F. Templeton.....        | 1888-1889              |
| Gideon C. Moody .....     | 1878-1883 | L.W. Crofoot .....         | 1888-1889              |
| Sanford A. Hudson .....   | 1881-1885 | Frank R. Aikens .....      | 1889                   |

- a. The Supreme Court was originally comprised of three members. However, acting under constitutional authority, the State Legislature increased the Court's membership to five effective February 26, 1909. An amendment to the State Constitution approved by a vote of the people on November 7, 1972, changed the titles of the Supreme Court members from "judges" to "justices" and called for the selection of a "chief justice" rather than a "presiding judge."
- b. Suspended by President Grover Cleveland.

## State of South Dakota

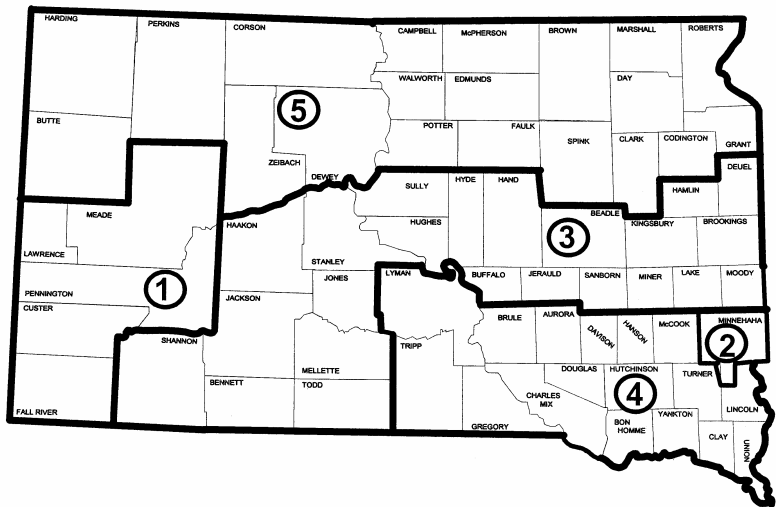
|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Dighton Corson, District 1 .....           | 1889-1913               |
| Alphonso G. Kellam, District 2 .....       | 1889-1896               |
| John E. Bennett, District 3 .....          | 1889-1893               |
| Howard G. Fuller, District 3 .....         | 1894-1908 <sup>a</sup>  |
| Dick Haney, District 2 .....               | 1896-1913 <sup>b</sup>  |
| Charles S. Whiting, District 3 .....       | 1908-1922 <sup>c</sup>  |
| James H. McCoy, District 5 .....           | 1909-1921 <sup>d</sup>  |
| Ellison G. Smith, District 4 .....         | 1909-1923               |
| Samuel C. Polley, District 1 .....         | 1913-1947 <sup>e</sup>  |
| John Howard Gates, District 2 .....        | 1913-1927 <sup>f</sup>  |
| Frank Anderson, District 5 .....           | 1921-1925 <sup>d</sup>  |
| Carl G. Sherwood, District 3 .....         | 1922-1931 <sup>c</sup>  |
| Charles H. Dillon, District 4 .....        | 1923-1926               |
| Dwight Campbell, District 5 .....          | 1925-1937               |
| N.D. Burch, District 4 .....               | 1926-1931 <sup>g</sup>  |
| James Brown, District 2 .....              | 1927-1931 <sup>f</sup>  |
| Frederick A. Warren, District 2 .....      | 1931-1944 <sup>h</sup>  |
| Everett D. Roberts, District 3 .....       | 1931-1970 <sup>i</sup>  |
| Herbert B. Rudolph, District 4 .....       | 1931-1957 <sup>j</sup>  |
| St. Clair Smith, District 5 .....          | 1937-1962 <sup>k</sup>  |
| Vernon R. Sickel, District 2 .....         | 1944-1956 <sup>l</sup>  |
| Charles R. Hayes, District 1 .....         | 1947-1951 <sup>m</sup>  |
| Boyd Leedom, District 1 .....              | 1951-1955 <sup>n</sup>  |
| Alex Rentto, District 1 .....              | 1955-1971 <sup>o</sup>  |
| Charles S. Hanson, District 2 .....        | 1956-1973 <sup>p</sup>  |
| Harold Bogue, District 4 .....             | 1957-1959 <sup>q</sup>  |
| Frank Biegelmeier, District 4 .....        | 1959-1974 <sup>r</sup>  |
| Frederick J. Homeyer, District 5 .....     | 1962-1971               |
| Fred R. Winans, District 3 .....           | 1971-1976 <sup>s</sup>  |
| James M. Doyle, District 1 .....           | 1971-1976 <sup>t</sup>  |
| Oren P. (Phil) Coler, District 4 .....     | 1974-1977               |
| Lawrence J. Zastrow, District 1 .....      | 1976-1979               |
| Donald J. Porter, District 3 .....         | 1977-1979               |
| Francis G. Dunn, District 2 .....          | 1973-1985 <sup>u</sup>  |
| Roger L. Wollman, District 5 .....         | 1971-1985 <sup>v</sup>  |
| Robert E. Morgan, District 4 .....         | 1977-1991 <sup>w</sup>  |
| Frank E. Henderson, District 1 .....       | 1979-1994               |
| Jon Fosheim, District 3 .....              | 1979-1986 <sup>x</sup>  |
| George W. Wuest (Acting), District 2 ..... | 1985-1986 <sup>y</sup>  |
| George W. Wuest, District 5 .....          | 1986-1994 <sup>y</sup>  |
| Richard W. Sabers, District 2 .....        | 1986- <sup>z</sup>      |
| Robert A. Miller, District 3 .....         | 1986-2001 <sup>aa</sup> |
| Robert A. Amundson, District 4 .....       | 1986-2002 <sup>bb</sup> |
| John K. Konenkamp, District 1 .....        | 1994- <sup>cc</sup>     |
| David Gilbertson, District 5 .....         | 1995- <sup>y</sup>      |
| Steven L. Zinter, District 3 .....         | 2002- <sup>dd</sup>     |
| Judith K. Meierhenry, District 4 .....     | 2002- <sup>ee</sup>     |

❖ Notes on following page.

**Former Justices of the Supreme Court Notes**

- a. John E. Bennett died and Howard G. Fuller was appointed January 15, 1894, to fill the vacancy.
- b. A.G. Kellam died and Dick Haney was appointed January 31, 1896, to fill the vacancy.
- c. Charles S. Whiting died March 25, 1922, and Carl G. Sherwood was appointed April 1, 1922, to fill the vacancy.
- d. James H. McCoy resigned December 1, 1921, and Frank Anderson was appointed December 1, 1921, to fill the vacancy.
- e. Samuel C. Polley retired July 1, 1947, and Charles H. Hayes was appointed July 8, 1947, to fill the vacancy.
- f. John Howard Gates died November 8, 1927, and James Brown was appointed November 26, 1927, to fill the vacancy.
- g. N.D. Burch died March 18, 1931, and Hervert B. Rudolph was appointed March 27, 1931, to fill the vacancy.
- h. Frederick A. Warren died June 18, 1944, and Vernon R. Sickel was appointed September 1, 1944, to fill the vacancy.
- i. Everett D. Roberts retired December 31, 1970, and Fred R. Winans was appointed January 1, 1971, to fill the vacancy.
- j. Herbert B. Rudolph died September 2, 1957, and Harold Bogue was appointed October 1, 1957, to fill the vacancy.
- k. St. Clair Smith retired December 1, 1962, and Frederick Homeyer was appointed December 1, 1962, to fill the vacancy.
- l. Vernon R. Sickel resigned July 1, 1956, and Charles S. Hanson was appointed July 1, 1956, to fill the vacancy.
- m. Charles R. Hayes resigned June 1, 1951, and Boyd Leedom was appointed June 1, 1951, to fill the vacancy.
- n. Boyd Leedom resigned March 31, 1955 and Alex Rentto was appointed May 1, 1955, to fill the vacancy.
- o. Alex Rentto retired September 15, 1971, and James M. Doyle was appointed December 30, 1971, to fill the vacancy.
- p. Charles S. Hanson retired September 1, 1973, and Francis G. Dunn was appointed September 1, 1973, to fill the vacancy.
- q. Harold Bogue died April 18, 1959, and Frank Biegelmeier was appointed May 11, 1959, to fill the vacancy.
- r. Frank Biegelmeier retired August 31, 1974 and Oren P. (Phil) Coler was appointed September 1, 1974 to fill the vacancy.
- s. Fred R. Winans resigned December 31, 1976, and Donald J. Porter was appointed January 1, 1977, to fill the vacancy.
- t. James M. Doyle died March 6, 1976, and Lawrence J. Zastrow was appointed August 10, 1976 to fill the vacancy.
- u. Francis G. Dunn resigned September 7, 1985, and George W. Wuest is serving as acting justice until a successor is named.
- v. Roger Wollman resigned September 6, 1985, and George W. Wuest was appointed September 8, 1986 fill the vacancy.
- w. Robert E. Morgan was elected and replaced Oren Coler January 1, 1977.
- x. Jon Fosheim retired December 12, 1986, and Robert A. Miller was appointed December 15, 1986 to fill the vacancy.
- y. George W. Wuest retired in 1994, and David Gilbertson was appointed on April 3, 1995, to fill the vacancy.
- z. Francis G. Dunn retired and Richard W. Sabers was appointed March 1, 1986, to fill the vacancy.
- aa. Jon Fosheim retired and Robert A. Miller was appointed December 15, 1986 to fill the vacancy.
- bb. Robert E. Morgan retired and Robert A. Amundson was appointed March 11, 1991, to fill the vacancy.
- cc. Frank Henderson retired and John K. Konekamp was appointed September 10, 1994.
- dd. Robert A. Miller retired September 14, 2001. Judge Max Gors of the Sixth Circuit was appointed acting Justice September 15, 2001 and served until Steve L. Zinter was appointed to fill the vacancy on April 2, 2002.
- ee. Robert A. Amundson retired on October 11, 2002 and Judith K. Meierhenry was appointed November 12, 2002.

Supreme Court District Map



Judicial Circuits of South Dakota

